United Nations A/C.5/61/SR.27

General Assembly
Sixty-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
8 January 2007

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 27th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 7 December 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Yousfi ..... (Algeria)

Contents

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body

Agenda item 134: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (*continued*)

Agenda item 139: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

06-64697 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/61/577)

Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body (A/C.5/61/10)

1. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/61/577), as well as the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/61/10) concerning the draft resolution on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body contained in the letter dated 19 October 2006 from the Chairman of the Third Committee to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/61/9).

2. Adoption of the Pension Board's recommendations on benefit provisions, strengthening the Information Management Systems Service, and additional resources for external and internal audit would give rise to overall additional requirements of $111,500 for the United Nations share of the administrative and audit costs of the Fund. Of the total requirements for the biennium 2006-2007, the cost under the regular budget would amount to $69,400 and the balance of $42,100 would be reimbursed to the United Nations by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund. Every effort would be made to meet the additional requirements of $69,400 from within the current appropriation under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007; actual expenditures would be reported in the context of the performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.

3. With regard to the programmatic and financial implications of the draft resolution on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would authorize the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to approve the budget of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, including its administrative and programme support costs budget, other than expenditures borne by the regular budget of the United Nations, and request the Advisory Committee to submit its comments and recommendations on the biennial consolidated budget for the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

4. Pursuant to the terms of the draft resolution, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would hold a reconvened session for two days at the end of 2007 and every second year of each biennium thereafter, with two meetings per day and with interpretation services in all official languages and required pre-session, in-session and post-session documentation. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, and provided that a reconvened session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held at the end of 2007, additional requirements under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 would total $144,800, as reflected in paragraph 12 of the note by the Secretary-General.

5. Should the reconvened session be held back to back with the reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs during the week of 26 to 30 November 2007, requirements for interpretation amounting to $48,500 could be met from in-house capacity and no additional costs for interpretation services would arise. Every effort would be made to meet the remaining additional requirements of $48,500 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and of $50,000 under section 16, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, from current appropriations under those two sections, and any additional requirements would be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.

6. In accordance with standard practice, the financial implications for 2008-2009 and subsequent bienniums would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the respective

bienniums. Accordingly, adoption of the draft resolution would not give rise to any financial implications for the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

7. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said, with regard to the Secretary-General's report on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/61/577), that the Advisory Committee noted that, as indicated in the report (paras. 12 and 13), every effort would be made to accommodate the additional requirements within existing resources, and that actual expenditures would be reported in the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.

8. With regard to the Secretary-General's note on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body (A/C.5/61/10), the Advisory Committee noted that, as indicated in the note (paras. 15 and 16), it was anticipated that additional requirements would be accommodated within existing resources and, as necessary, reflected in the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.

9. **Ms. Kuroda** (Japan) said that her delegation took note of paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Secretary-General's report (A/61/577) and paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Secretary-General's note (A/C.5/61/10), and trusted that the full amount of the estimated costs would be absorbed within approved appropriations.

10. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled that the Committee had received a proposal from the Secretary-General in response to its request, contained in General Assembly resolution 60/246, for recommendations on how the maintenance base of the Development Account could be increased by $5 million. Regrettably, however, it appeared that Member States were no closer than in previous years to achieving a consensus decision on the matter.

11. When the Development Account had been established, in 1997, the Secretary-General had stated that the maintenance balance would be increased by transferring to the Development Account savings resulting from administrative efficiencies. However, not a single cent had so far been transferred through that mechanism, which was clearly not working. Moreover, the Secretary-General had stated that in view of the continuing requests by the Assembly that he should meet additional mandates within existing resources, programme managers were prioritizing activities and, as a result, there were no additional administrative savings to be transferred.

12. The Group of 77 and China was not particularly happy with the proposals before the Committee, although it was willing to proceed with them. However, it was very concerned at the lack of progress being made in negotiations on the draft resolution on the Development Account, and also very concerned at the insistence that new mandates should be met from within existing resources and at the resulting implications for the request that administrative savings should be transferred to the Development Account. The Group could not be expected to continue acceding to requests that new mandates should be met from within existing resources. The Group therefore trusted that all those concerned would be willing to set aside positions that no longer offered a practical way forward and endeavour to consider the issue in a more open-minded and objective manner.

Agenda item 134: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (*continued*) (A/C.5/61/L.9)

Draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.9: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

13. *Draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.9 was adopted.*

14. **Mr. Banny** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that he wished to express the gratitude of the people of Côte d'Ivoire and his Government for the consistent solidarity demonstrated by the international community since the onset of the social and political crisis in the country.

15. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa) said that her delegation was very encouraged by the positive manner in which the Committee had considered the budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and echoed the acknowledgement by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire of the contribution made by the international community.

16. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria) acknowledged the vital role played by the international community and the African Union, as well as the special efforts of the Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States and the President of South Africa. She highlighted the Security Council's adoption of

resolution 1721 (2006), and looked forward to considering any additional requests that might be submitted with respect to UNOCI in due course.

Agenda item 139: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (*continued*)
(A/C.5/61/L.10)

Draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.10: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

17. *Draft resolution A/C 5/61/L.10 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.